

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please amend paragraph [0033] of the specification as follows:

[0033] Turning to FIGURE 3, a flow chart 300 for an exemplar method of a solder joint, or other examination element, inspection employing an embodiment of laminographic deshadowing is shown. A morphological structuring element, S, which is bigger than the joints or elements to be examined is selected at box 301. S should be larger than the shortest dimension of a joint or examination element. S should be of limited width overall, typically approximating the lead-to-lead pitch. The lead-to-lead spacing for an IC can be used to size structuring elements. However, the other dimension of structuring element S should be comparably large, to extend beyond solder bridges or other large structure shadows. Also, S should be convex, downward (its 2nd derivatives being non-negative). S should also be fairly flat over the region sized to the smaller dimension of the joint. Beyond this central fairly-flat core, S preferably rises smoothly, to avoid introducing discontinuous artifacts into the image.

Please amend paragraph [0062] of the specification as follows:

[0062] In a terraced structuring element embodiment, a structuring element's influence preferably rounds off at the edges of the image. This can be approximated by an invertedly terraced structuring element. Method 700 of deshadowing, employing such a terraced structuring element, is flow charted in FIGURE 7. Dilation by such a terraced structuring element can be accomplished by an extension of the previous methods. For example, to dilate image A by a structuring element which has a central terrace of height zero and diameter fifteen, surrounded by a terrace of height four and diameter twenty-five, with an outside terrace of height nine and diameter of thirty-three. With reference to FIGURE 7, the following steps are flowcharted for the full algorithm for employing multiple terraces to carry out the

present invention. At 701 M is set as equal to the number of rows in a laminograph or similar image to be deshadowed. At 702 N is set as the number of columns in the image. A first terrace diameter and terrace altitude for the Structuring Element (SE) is selected at 703. At 704 the achieved diameter of the structuring element is set at one. At 705 the terrace is set as equal to a copy of the image, padded by the number of rows and columns equal to a selected maximum diameter of the SE, minus one. The number of rows and columns are set preferably set to the lowest available number for the image. A workimage is set as equal to the M by N image array, with pixels set to the lowest available number at 706. A new diameter of the SE is set at 707 as the min of two times the achieved diameter, terrace diameter. At 708 the terrace is set to the max of the terrace, terrace shifted down by the new diameter from 707 less the achieved diameter. At 709 the terrace is set to the max of the terrace, terrace shifted right by the new diameter from 707 less the achieved diameter. Then at 710 the achieved diameter is set as equal to the new diameter set at 707. A determination is made at 711 as to whether the achieved diameter is less than the terrace diameter. If it is steps 707 through 711 are repeated. If the achieved diameter is greater than or equal to the terrace diameter at 711, the terrace half-width ("h") is set to half of the terrace diameter 712. Then at 713 a new workimage is set equal to the max of the old workimage from 706, an M by N subarray of terrace starting at row h column h less the altitude of the SE. If it is determined at 714 that all the terraces to be used have been used the result is found in the workimage at 715. However, if there is another terrace to be used the terrace diameter and altitude are selected at 716 and steps 707 through 714 are repeated.